

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the application.

- 1) (currently amended) An iterative method of laying out elements in a defined space, ~~wherein the layout includes~~ using content data and design data, said content data including alphanumeric and/or graphical elements, and said design data including a rule or rules associated with a particular alphanumeric element or graphical element, said rule defining a scoring system which defines a score dependent on a degree of conformance to said rule, the elements being associated with priorities representing a preferred ordering of the elements, the method ~~including comprising, in a processing system,~~ the steps of:
 - (a) arranging geometrically and according to the priorities the alphanumeric and/or graphical elements included in the content data, the arrangement being performed within the defined space in accordance with the preferred ordering so as to obtain a resulting layout;
 - (b) scoring the resulting layout according to the rule or rules included in the design data;
 - (c) storing said score; and
 - (d) repeating the above steps (a) to (c) ~~for a plurality of iterative alphanumeric and/or graphical layouts to determine a number of different resulting layouts, thereby allowing one of the resulting layouts to be selected in accordance with the score.~~
- 2) (currently amended) A method ~~as recited in~~ according to claim 1) 1, wherein the defined space is a page of a book.
- 3) (currently amended) A method ~~as recited in~~ according to claim 1) 1, wherein the defined space is to be displayed on a screen.
- 4) (currently amended) A method ~~as recited in~~ according to claim 1) 1, further including a step (e) of selecting ~~an optimal layout~~ one of the resulting layouts in accordance with the score of the different alphanumeric and/or graphical elements from the plurality of iterative layouts based on the layout having the highest score in said step (b).

- 5) (currently amended) A method ~~as recited in~~ according to claim 4) 4, further including a step (f) of repeating said steps (a) through (e) ~~to provide~~ for a plurality of different spaces and different elements, thereby obtaining a plurality of selected resulting layouts which define a finished work included of a plurality of defined spaces.
- 6) (currently amended) A method ~~as recited in~~ according to claim 4) 1, said step (b) of scoring including the step of scoring a high value for an alphanumerical element and/or graphical element that has an optimal relative position in the space, and the step of scoring a low value for an alphanumerical element and/or graphical element that has an poor relative position in the space, the rule or rules determining the optimal and poor position in the space.
- 7) (cancelled)
- 8) (currently amended) A method ~~as recited in claim 7~~ according to claim 23, wherein the space is a page of a book.
- 9) (currently amended) A method ~~as recited in claim 7~~ according to claim 23, wherein the space is a frame to be displayed on a screen.
- 10) (cancelled)
- 11) (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ A processing system for laying out elements in a defined space, the ~~apparatus being formed from a processing system including~~ comprising:
- (a) A store for storing:
 - (i) content data including alphanumeric and/or graphical elements, and
 - (ii) design data including a rule or rules associated with a particular alphanumeric element or graphical element, said rule defining a scoring system which defines a score dependent on a degree of conformance to said rule, the elements being associated with priorities representing a preferred ordering of the elements;
 - (b) a processor adapted to:

- (i) arrange geometrically and accordingly to the priorities the alphanumeric and/or graphical elements included in the content data to generate a layout, the arrangement being performed within the defined space in accordance with the preferred ordering so as to obtain a resulting layout;
 - (ii) score the resulting layout according to the rule or rules included in the design data;
 - (iii) store said score; and
 - (iv) repeat the above steps (b)(i) to (b)(iii) ~~for a plurality of iterative alphanumeric and/or graphical layouts~~ to determine a number of different resulting layouts, thereby allowing one of the resulting layouts to be selected in accordance with the score.

- 12) (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The processing system according to claim 11, the processing system including a display for presenting layouts to the user.

- 13) (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The processing system according to claim 12, the processing system being adapted to:
 - (a) select a ~~respective~~ resulting layout; and,
 - (b) generate output data representing the selected resulting layout.

- 14) (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The processing system according to claim 13, the processing system being adapted to select the layout in accordance with at least one of:
 - (a) Input commands received from a user; and,
 - (b) The ~~respective layout score~~ scores of the resulting layouts.

- 15) (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The processing system according to claim 13 or claim 14, the processing system being coupled to a communications network, the processing system being adapted to:
 - (a) receive the content and/or designs data from one or more end stations coupled to the communications network; and,
 - (b) store the received content and/or designs data in the store.

- 16) (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The processing system according to claim 15, the processing system being adapted to transfer the output data to a selected end station.
- 17) (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The processing system according to any one of the claims 11 to 16, the processing system being adapted to determine the content and/or designs data in accordance with input commands received from a user.
- 18) (cancelled)
- 19) (cancelled)
- 20) (cancelled)
- 21) (cancelled)
- 22) (new) A method according to claim 1, wherein arranging geometrically the alphanumeric and/or graphical elements comprises at least one of:
positioning the alphanumeric and/or graphical elements within the defined space; and
resizing the alphanumeric and/or graphical elements.
- 23) (new) A method of laying out one or more elements in a defined space, the method comprising, in a processing system, the steps of:
- (a) arranging the one or more elements in the defined space according to a first set of rules, the first set of rules relating to a desired arrangement of the one or more elements in the defined space, the first set of rules also defining a predetermined number of resulting layouts in accordance with a given number of elements;
 - (b) for at least some of the resulting layouts, determining a score for the arrangement of the elements using a second set of rules, the second set of rules defining a scoring system for determining the score based on the arrangement of the one or more elements within the defined space; thereby allowing one of the resulting layouts to be selected in accordance with the score.

24. (new) A method according to claim 23, wherein the method includes selecting one of the resulting layouts based on the score.
25. (new) A method according to claim 23, wherein arranging geometrically the elements comprises at least one of:
positioning the elements within the defined space; and resizing the elements.
26. (new) A processing system for laying out one or more elements in a defined space, the processing system being configured to:
- (a) arrange the one or more elements in the defined space according to a first set of rules, the first set of rules relating to a desired arrangement of the one or more elements in the defined space, the first set of rules also defining a predetermined number of resulting layouts in accordance with a given number of elements;
 - (b) for at least some of the resulting layouts, determining a score for the arrangement of the elements using a second set of rules, the second set of rules defining a scoring system for determining the score based on the arrangement of the one or more elements within the defined space, thereby allowing one of the resulting layouts to be selected in accordance with the score.
27. (new) A processing system according to claim 26, wherein the processing system is configured to:
select one of the resulting layouts in accordance with the score.
28. (new) A processing system according to claim 26, wherein the processing system is configured to arrange the one or more elements by performing at least one of:
positioning the elements within the defined space; and
resizing the elements.